(c) and (d) Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board (APSEB) proposal for setting up of a combined Cycle Project of 99 MW (2x33 MW (GT) x 1x33 MW (ST) at Narsapur Razole area in Andhra Pradesh has been cleared by CEA & Planning Commission. The APSEB have taken up the project for execution. Orders for equipment have been placed on BHEL. As per the present programme, the first unit is expected to be commissioned by May, 1989.

Setting up of gas based power plants

551. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a large potential for setting up gas-based power plants in the country and that these plants are cheaper than the thermal and hydel power plants;

(b) what is the policy of Government for fully utilising gas to generate electricity during the next five years; and

(c) which are the States selected by Government for the setting up of gas-based power plants in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (c) The setting up of additional gas-based power projects as a short-term option for meeting the power demands will depend on the confirmation of availability of gas for power generation, following an assessment in this regard for various parts of the country over the Eighth and the Ninth Plan periods. The cost of production of electricity depends on various factors such as the type of plant, unit size, price and quality of fuel used, location of the power station in relation to the source of fuel supply and operating hours in a year.

Expenditure on the telecommunication equipments

552. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of expenditure on equipments allocated to Bombay and Delhi Mahanagar Telephone Nigams and Calcutta and Madras telephones districts in 1987-88 and in 1988-89 till date;

(b) whether it is a fact that the metropolitan cities are being developed at the cost of the rest of the country; if not what is the percentage of allocation in terms of equipments and money to the four cities against the entire country; and

(c) whether Government would consider changing its priorities so that the rural areas can also develop in the field of communications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) to (c) Accounts of the year 1987-88 are yet to be closed in Department of Telecommunications as well as Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. Required information will be collected and placed on the table of the House.

Manufacture of mobile telephones

553. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mobile telephones will be manufactured by a Private Sector company in Bombay; if so, what will be the estimated cost of the project and whether it is under collaboration with any foreign firm and what will be the extent of foreign investment;

(b) whether Government have approved the project and whether Mahanaga Telephone Nigam Limited, Bombay ha assured the manufacturer to buy suc phones; and

(c) whether Government feel that mobile telephones are necessary in metropolitan cities and whether the earlier decision to have such cellular mobile phones for rural areas has been shelved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Mobile Telephone System is useful for large urban areas as well as rural areas. Mobile Telephone System proposed for Bombay will cover surrounding areas also. The proposal for the use of mobile telephone technology as one of the alternatives for providing rural communication is still under the consideration of the Government.

Production of iodised salt

554. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of iodised salt has decreased during the last three years;

(b) whether the small-salt-pan manufacturers have discontinued their work due to recent order to iodinise the salt; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to provide adequate remunerative prices to small-salt-pan manufacturers to increase salt production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) *No, Sir.*

(c) Does not arise.

Aromatic complex Project of Madras Refineries Ltd.

555. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item in "The Week" magazine dated 3rd-9th July, 1988 regarding withholding of licences for Madras Refineries Ltd. in connection with its project for aromatic complex; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) M/s. Madras Refineries Limited (MRL) has been granted a Letter of Intent on 6-2-87 to set up an aromatic complex at Manali, district Chingleput in the State of Tamil Nadu. M/s. MRL are taking steps to obtain necessary clearances such as investment approval, foreign collaboration and import of capital goods etc. Such clearances are given on techno-economic considerations.

Licenced capacity for petrochemicals

556. SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the licenced capacity granted to manufacture DMT, PTA, LAB; HDPE and Polyester Fibre and Yarn to various public sector and private sector companies, companywise as on 31st December, 1987; and

(b) whether Government would review the policy of granting capacity to manufacture these products to private sectors and reserve the capacity for public sector only?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) A statement is attached. (*See* below).

(b) Industrial Licences are issued as per the policy laid down under the Industrial (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 which is reviewed by the Government from time to time.